

The Gant County Fiscal Court met in Special Session on Monday, March 07, 2005, at 7:00 P.M. at the Grant County Courthouse in Williamstown, Kentucky 41097, with Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, Present; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, Present, and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Present and Presiding.

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Magistrate Messer opened in prayer. Judge Link then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were: Clark Kinman- Cable TV, KSP Captain Al Rich, James Perkins, Sheriff Randy Middleton, Jim Wells, Deputy Sheriff Troy Hagedorn, Deputy Sheriff Marty Souder and Brent "Tank" Cummins. Judge Link updated on the Additions/ Deletions to the Agenda.

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Judge Link reported that during the last meeting there was a claim in the Jail Fund to R.P.C. Mechanical, Inc. for \$27,022.50 that the Court had questioned, and stated that the amount was incorrect. It should have been for \$2,702.50 rather than \$27,022.50. He stated that a correction was made on the check before it was mailed out. He then asked for a motion to approve this Claim in the amount of \$2,702.50 as corrected. Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to approve the payment of Claim No. 03-1488 in the amount of \$2,702.50 to R.P.C. Mechanical, Inc. that was paid on February 21, 2005, out of the Jail Fund as corrected.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2005, meeting as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link announced that Magistrate Pat Conrad had another obligation and could not be present tonight.

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Judge Link recognized the guests and asked if anyone wanted to address the Court at this time. No one did.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Claims in the General Expense Fund, Road Fund, and Jail Fund for the month of March, 2005, along with the transfers needed to pay said claims. He asked if there were any questions about them. There was some question about the Claims for eye glasses for employees and the amount of the Claim to Bullock Pen Water in the General Fund. The eyeglasses are a part of the county's employee insurance program, and Bullock Pen Water District is a recurring monthly bill for water at the Grant County Park, but Judge Link will check to see if it is more than usual and if we have a water leak at the Park.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to approve Claims No. 01-0964 thru 01-1006 in the amount of \$30,042.53 paid out of the General Expense Fund; Claims No. 02-0356 thru 01-0376 in the amount of \$13,744.20 paid out of the Road Fund, and Claims No. 03-1513 thru 03-1524 in the amount of \$15,849.95 paid out of the Jail Fund, for the month of March, 2005, along with the transfers needed to pay said claims, as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell L. Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for a second reading Ordinance No. 01-2005-558 relating to an Amendment to the Grant County Zoning Map for applicant Shirley Brinegar, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing adoption, if approved. They are as follows: Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 01-2005-558 relating to an Amendment to the Grant County Zoning Map for Shirley Brinegar, along with the Notice to run in the local paper showing adoption as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link stated that Sheriff Randy Middleton and Jim Wells, E911 Board of Directors, were present to update the Court on the operations of the Grant County Public Service Communications Center. He presented three proposals that had been given to the E911 Budget Committee for consideration as well as a copy of the Kentucky State Police proposal. They are as follows: One proposal is for the Current Funding Plan for FY 2005-2006 Budget, one proposal is for a \$3.00 Surcharge Plan for FY 2005-2006 Budget, and one proposal is for a \$4.00 Surcharge Plan for FY 2005-2006 Budget. Jim Wells spoke and said that Sheriff Middleton, KSP Captain Al Rich and himself made up a quorum for the Board of Directors and that they are here to answer any questions the Court may have regarding the Operations Center and these proposals. He reviewed each of the proposals in great detail and general discussion was held on them. Judge Link

explained that this is the first time that the Fiscal Court members have seen these proposals and they have not had an opportunity to review them and that it is possible that any decision or actions on them may be deferred to a later meeting. Jim said that the current year's budget is based on the previous years spending and was put together by both he and Judge Link. He explained that about every three years hardware, software and equipment, computers and phones, needs to be replaced and these figures are to set aside funds so that we are not surprised in the future like we were this year. A cushion of \$50,000.00 was included on this budget in order to plan for these expenses when they become due in the next budget cycle. He also gave a general update on the Salaries on page 3 and explained how they derived at the amounts under 2% Increase, COLA and the Overtime amounts as well as the formula allowed thru the Interlocal Agreement for the various legislative bodies to pay in as Revenue. He stated that these are based on the \$2.00 surcharge this 04-05 fiscal year and shows the budget shortfalls and deficit. He stated that the \$3.00 surcharge will put us back with the current funding balance with a zero contribution level for this year, this next budget cycle, but with the \$4.00 surcharge budget the entities would have to contribute more revenue. It was stated that both Jim Wells and KSP Captain Al Rich have seen each others proposal. Jim stated that he is not an Accountant and that these are just projected and anticipated budgets. He updated on the 250 phone line loss expense put in as a cushion and said if we gain some more lines we could stay even. This may not be a true expense. You could gain some more lines, you could stay even. He had to anticipate some loss in revenue. He also explained the CMRS costs which is based on the number of wireless telephone calls received and updated on these funds. Judge Link also updated on the CMRS costs and stated that they

are very unpredictable based upon the policies set by the State. We are compliant now to get these funds, but with administrative changes this can change drastically. Magistrate Messer asked Jim what his opinion was, personally speaking, what significance does he personally feel that he wants it to remain as it is with these kinds of costs verses the KSP proposal. He explained that he can not speak for the Board, only for himself. He said that some of the answers he has been getting from the KSP in dealing with the apples to apples comparison on these proposals, he is concerned with the level of service, and when he feels satisfied with the level of service and it will be adequate or the same, then at that point he believes the satisfaction will be shared by most all of us. The question in his mind is whether that level of service will remain the same and what mechanism the county, cities, departments and other agencies that work under the system, have, the mechanism they have to be able to adapt to and change their policies, and that is his concern. He is the Fire representative on the Board of Directors and he represents five fire departments, Trans Care and Emergency Management. He represents a whole lot more people than others on the Board, and a whole lot of people tell him what to do and their number one concern is the level of service and their control on the Center.

Magistrate Messer asked him, from a fire standpoint, if he thought it would make any difference as to whether he is dispatched from the KSP or the present Dispatch Center when it comes to a life or death situation from a fire. He said some of the questions he has asked he is still waiting on answers from Frankfort. The calls of service they use at the Dispatch Center he has passed all that along to the Communications Director at Post 6 and he has yet to receive word that they can meet that. He is sure that they can but he has not received word that they can. He updated on the various calls of service and the

departments that handle them that they respond to i.e. law enforcement, fire calls, EMS calls etc., and said Calls of Service are what they respond to and these have been forwarded on to the State for answers and he is still waiting on an answer to see if they will get the call for these services. He has never worked under the KSP and has no plus or minus as to working with them. Judge Link asked if these concerns have been documented and if a copy of them can be obtained to assist him in getting these answers. He stated that he would be happy to, and then updated on his meeting with Jerry from the KSP on services in general and the proposals they had which did not cover all the services that they utilize, but they want to stay with the calls of service they are utilizing because it conforms to and is very similar to what surrounding counties, Boone, Kenton and Campbell use as well as Scott and Fayette County, and the reason for that is the interoperability between the multiple agencies plus they don't have to reinvent the wheel. Captain Al Rich stated that if it comes to KSP they will make sure that if an emergency call comes in for fire or emergency, they will make sure it gets dispatched out. They get the same kind of calls that Jim is talking about and they will dispatch the same calls. They are working on the blind calls, you call Dry Ridge Fire Department for a fire etc, and you are not putting the responsibility on the dispatcher as to what truck to send or anything, and that is what they are working on, the procedures as to how they would be handled, that is still in the works. Judge Link spoke on behalf of one of the legislative bodies involved in the decision making, and said that they are looking at the bottom line numbers and listening to the citizens. It is apparent that it is a no-brainer decision when you just look at the bottom line numbers in their decision or whatever decision they make and in talking to the public and the Magistrates they hear comments from the public as to

when a call comes in they want to be able to make the call, they want somebody to dispatch the appropriate parties to their home, and beyond that they have little preference as to the color of uniforms that will show up, and those are all things that we can all agree upon. What makes it very difficult for the county is when you all talk to us and have these protocol and procedures differences, it is really difficult for us to embrace what is being argued. They want to be able to help everybody and the argument that is being made, and it is really difficult to see what is being argued and how to put it into words what is being argued to communicate to the public whom they represent. That is what they are asking for, is for everybody to put into words that they can understand and also tell them how they can help all to come together so they can talk apples to apple as Jim has identified. He thinks we would get there a whole lot faster if someone figures that out with a whole lot less aggravation. Jim Wells updated on the different procedures and protocols used by the different departments and said a lot are behind the scenes and are not known to all people and there is so much more that you have to bring to the table. Discussion was held on the CAD system. The KSP and the Dispatch Center have the same system. The "blind call" system was explained and it was stated that by doing this it takes the responsibility off of the dispatchers. Captain Al Rich stated he is in favor of the "blind call" system and that his officers would be the one telling them what to take as far as equipment etc on a call, not the dispatcher. Jim said this is the system they are using at the Grant County Dispatch Center and gave an explanation on how equipment etc is selected and said this is the flip side to dispatching. He updated on some of the problems with the software and said that the Fire Chiefs Association recommends that unit dispatching be suspended temporarily until the software was fixed... He gave a

further explanation as to how the dispatching system works and how dispatchers respond and how they send what is needed when responding to a call. They try to compare unit dispatching with blind dispatching. Unit dispatching is just the computer telling the dispatcher what to say. There is no more responsibility or liability on a dispatcher if they say what is on the screen than if they don't say what is on the screen. More discussion was also held on software and other problems and how the computer handles calls for different areas and service calls. Discussion was also held on using the closest Law Enforcement Officer. Captain Rich said we should be using this now and updated on how it works. He said that there is a communications problem right now but that is what happens when you have two dispatch centers. Magistrate Messer asked Captain Rich how they would talk to each other. He said at this time they would still dispatch them on their frequency and KSP troopers have county radios in their cars, but said the county does not have KSP radios in their cars. He was asked if there was a significance in being able to do that. Captain Rich said he did not know and is looking into that but doesn't know if it can be done. Sheriff Middleton said it was not significant. Captain Rich said it really was not but it helps if both parties could hear what is going on. They monitor each other on the Grant County frequency. Magistrate Messer asked if the Sheriff's Office and others could hear the dispatching by the KSP and Captain Rich replied "No, if your dispatchers know where the people are they can put them in touch with each other. At this time Jim Wells stated because they were not represented by legal counsel he was not sure if all three of those present on the Board of Directors could answer questions and said perhaps the County Attorney could answer this. He said they make a quorum by three of them being here and he did not want that to be a problem. Ed

Lorenz, County Attorney, said that as long as they take no official action or vote on anything they may address the Court. Jim then updated on KSP radio equipment which operates on a system that a normal scanner can't follow and said that you have to have specialized equipment in order to follow the conversation, and this equipment is very costly and other units don't have that equipment. Captain Rich stated that they would work on the Closest Car Concept. He has nine officers assigned to Grant County and the Sheriff's Office has fifteen officers. This makes a total of 24 law enforcement officers. Judge Link stated that the citizens want to know as does the Court that there are 24 officers out there and when a call comes in that the closest car concept would be available. ALS response was discussed and explained. It was stated that this is already predetermined and loaded into the system. The use of aerial ladders at a previous accident was discussed and it was stated these are used to provide lighting when needed or to get aerial photos of an accident scene. Discussion was held on the number of people the KSP have to dispatch. Captain Rich said they now have nine and with three from the Dispatch Center there would be a total of 12 dispatchers. Discussion was held on the training required for the 3 from the Dispatch Center. Captain Rich said it would be the same as for the other nine at the KSP. They would have to go to Frankfort and get on the Register and go thru the process that the KSP have for hiring new employees. It was stated that three have already gone to Frankfort and signed up, and that perhaps two of them have enough time and are eligible and exempt from this process. The KSP now have two dispatchers per shift and would likely have three per shift if they receive the dispatching. He explained that the KSP now have three workstations where Grant County has two workstations, and all three of theirs would be able to work at the same

time at their own work stations. Discussion was held on the cost involved if awarded to the KSP and the figure of \$75,000.00 was mentioned. Again Jim Wells expressed his concern regarding the radio network system if the KSP takes over dispatching. He stated that they do not propose to take this over and someone would still have to maintain this system as provided by RCS Communications. He stated that the Grant County Dispatch has a back up system that they can switch to if needed and continue dispatching. He stated that there is no contingency for a back up system, and that Doug Honeycutt with the KSP has said that there is no place at the KSP for this system. Discussion was held. Magistrate Austin commented that there is about a \$300,000.00 difference to keep it where it is and raise the surcharge or it could change to the Kentucky State Police. Mr. Wells stated that he still needs more answers before he could make a recommendation to change to KSP. Judge Link stated he has talked to the Legislators about getting funds for wireless phones and that there is still a lot of information to be obtained and updated on this. Magistrate Austin spoke in regards to the "unknown" that all seem to be afraid of if changed to the KSP, and stated that he felt the KSP would be very capable of doing the dispatching. He asked Mr. Wells if they are still going to do this job any different than they do now no matter where the calls originate from and where it goes to. Link NCIC located at the City of Williamstown was discussed also and how that would work. Captain Rich said it would be run the same way and not a problem and that it could be moved anywhere and it would be up to them and Frankfort. He said that they can be run at the same time with three workstations. Memorandums of Understanding (MOA's) were to be put together on how calls will be handled. Captain Rich said that they can make it work even though it would be a lot more work on his people. Mr. Wells again

stated he is representing the Board of Directors and he named those who were on this Board which are Sheriff Middleton, Captain Rich, himself, Police Chief Bobby Webb and Corinth Mayor Bill Hill. He again said that he was here tonight to field questions on the Center and the Budgets. He stated that their legal counsel had recommended that they come to the meeting and provide any answers to questions the Court may have. Captain Al Rich disagreed with Mr. Wells, and stated that he was not aware of this meeting before this afternoon and that he was only here tonight as an individual and not as a member of the Board of Directors. He stated that he had talked with Mayor Hill and that he was also not aware of this meeting either, and that it had not been discussed with the Board of Directors at their last meeting. Judge Link asked what further action they intended to do now and suggested that they go back to the table and try to work out this issue in a professional manner and get more answers to all of these questions. Mr. Wells stated that someone was also at the Dry Ridge City Council meeting tonight talking to them and that Williamstown Mayor Glenn Caldwell is planning to present these budgets to his Council tonight. He said that these are just proposals, “what if” proposals only. Magistrate Messer commented that the Court wants to fix this mess and make sure it does not happen again and that there would not be anymore shortfalls like the one we are in now. Discussion was held on equipment failure in the future and the costs involved for repairs and who would pay for those. Judge Link stated that we, the legislative bodies, would be responsible if this remained at the Grant County Dispatch Center and KSP would be responsible if they are dispatching, and that has to be taken into consideration. Mr. Wells reported that out of 52,000 calls, 16,000 were E911 calls last year. Others were mostly administrative or communication calls between the KSP and their officers.

Discussion was held on the KSP having radios that they could hear and talk on, but other officers can hear but can not talk on. Captain Rich again stated that as long as the Closest Car Concept is kept it will work. Some were concerned about what will happen if Captain Rich retires or there is a change in Captains at the KSP Post. Captain Rich lives in Grant County and is a home town boy and has been willing to work cooperatively, but what happens if he is not there to work with them. Captain Rich responded and said that he has faith in the KSP and they will take care of it the way it should be taken care of. They will run it on the closest car concept in order to serve the county. Access by other officers to KSP frequency was also discussed. Frankfort says that is not possible. They have to regulate it and you can't just let everyone on it. Captain Rich stated that they will be dispatched on their radios, not the KSP frequency. He explained the CAD system and how it pulls up an officer to send to a particular situation. If that officer is busy at the time he is called, it calls the next available officer. He said that this is a trust factor. When people call for an officer they want a uniformed officer there, no matter whether it is blue, brown or gray or any other color, they want someone to respond and want action right then. Magistrate Messer and Austin said their main concern is the public being served at the lowest and best cost and that public safety be the number one concern. The cities do not have the budget that the county does and the county is willing to help finance it but want the public protected. The KSP has offered their assistance. There were some more questions about the surcharge from \$2.00 to \$3.00 or \$4.00. Jim Wells said that expenses always go up and we should have known that the \$1.00 would go up, or should have known. At this time each one gave comments on their opinions. All voiced concerns or various issues that they felt should be considered if it went with the

KSP or remained with the Grant County Dispatch Center. This was about a 2 hour general discussion with the Sheriff and his officers who were present, the KSP, the Fiscal Court members, and Jim Wells about all issues concerning dispatching and making any changes in who will do the dispatching in the future. All were given the chance to make comments and ask questions, and the Court felt, as did those present, that the issues discussed had helped to answer some of the questions and issues they were concerned about. Judge Link thanked all of them for attending the meeting and for performing their jobs and said the Court hopes they will document their concerns and try to work out their concerns and come together to answer all questions and concerns. A copy of the proposals presented and discussed during this discussion are as follows:

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Judge Link presented the Road Supervisor's Report for February 2005. No action is required. It is as follows: He also presented the Building Inspector's Report for February-2005. No action is required. It is as follows:

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Judge Link updated that W. R. Case had informed Connie that he would not be able to work this Summer as the Grant County Park Supervisor due to his wife's illness and requested a Motion to accept with regrets his oral resignation effective February 28, 2005. He stated that Mr. Case had been a faithful and loyal employee and that he could not imagine going to the Park and him not being there working. He stated that he planned to go see him and just thank him for all of his dedication and faithfulness and contributions to the county over the years, and he wished him and his family well.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to accept with regrets the oral Resignation of W. R. Case as Grant County Parks Supervisor

effective February 28, 2005.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link presented for review and approval the Appointment of Sandra Fields to serve as Grant County Park Supervisor to replace W. R. Case effective March 01, 2005, at a salary of \$426.92 per Pay Period. It is as follows:

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to approve the Appointment of Sandra Fields to serve as Grant County Park Supervisor effective March 01, 2005, as presented.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link stated that there was a development proposal in the works and that they were asking the Grant County Sanitation District to provide sanitary sewer service since the land lies on the Grant County/Kenton County boundary line. He requested a motion authorizing the County Attorney to prepare the proper Agreement with Kenton County to allow the Sanitation District to provide them service.

Motion of Kenny Messer and seconded by Richard Austin it is hereby ordered to authorize County Attorney Ed Lorenz to prepare an Interlocal Agreement between Grant County and Kenton County pertaining to the Grant County Sanitation District as requested.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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Judge Link reminded Fiscal Court that the next Caucus meeting will be on Monday, March 14, 2005, at 5:30 P.M., and that the next meeting of the Fiscal Court will be on Monday, March 21, 2005, at 7:00 P.M.

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Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to Adjourn until Monday, March 21, 2005, at 7:00 P.M.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE